By the King,

A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE R.

Whereas We are Informed, That divers Seamen and Seafaring Men are gotten into the Inland Counties, with design to Shelter themselves there from Our Service, and by their so Absconding when there is a pressing Occasion for their Service, We have Reason to Apprehend, that Our Ships, which are now Fitting out, cannot be so timely Manned as the Service may Require, notwithstanding all the Endeavours that have hitherto been used, both by Pressing and Entertaining Voluntiers; We do therefore, by and with the Advice of Our Privy-Council, strictly Charge and Require all Justices of the Peace and other Magistrates of every Town and County within this Kingdom, but more especially of those Towns which lie on the Road from any Sea-Port Town to London, That they use their utmost Endeavours to Apprehend and Seize all Straggling Seamen, Watermen, Bargemen, Fishermen, and Lightermen, which are of Able Bodies, and fit to serve on Board Our Ships, and which shall be met with by or before the Tenth Day of May next, and cause them to be sent to the nearest Sea-Ports where any of Our Ships of War, or Tenders belonging to the same, shall be, namely Deptford, Woolwich, Chatham, Sheerness, Harwich, Portsmouth, and Plymouth; and We enjoyn them to take care that such Stragglers be delivered to the Officers and Commanders which shall be on Board such Ships of War or Tenders. And We do hereby further Command and Direct, That the Officers (who receive such Straggling Seamen or Seafaring Men) give Receipts for them; and that they Insert in such Receipts, not only the Names of the Men, but the Names of the Ships or Vessels they shall be entertained for, together with the Time when, and the Place where, they are so received. And We hereby further Direct and Require all Our Captains, Lieutenants, and other Officers of Our Ships of War, That they do not receive any Old Men or Boys, or Infirm or Diseased Persons, unfit for Our Service. And as an Encouragement to all Officers and others, who shall Apprehend and Send on Board any of Our Ships of War or Tenders any such Straggling Seaman or Seafaring Man, We do hereby Order and Direct Our Principal Officers and Commissioners of Our Navy, to give Orders to the Clerks of the Cheque at the said several Ports (upon producing to them such Receipts from the Officers of Our Ships of War, who received such Men on Board Our Ships of War or Tenders) to pay unto the Persons so bringing and delivering such Straggling Seamen or Seafaring Men, Ten Shillings for every Man who shall be brought within Twenty Miles from that Place where he or they were first taken up, and Six Pence per Mile for every Man who shall be brought above Twenty Miles, over and above the aforesaid Ten Shillings. And that Our said Principal Officers and Commissioners of Our Navy, do Direct the said Clerks of the Cheque at the several Ports, not only to keep an exact Account of the Money by them Expended in this Service, but that they take Care, that the said Men, for whom Receipts shall be given, be put on Board some of Our Ships of War, or Tenders to them belonging; and that such Receipts as shall be so tendred them, be delivered up into the Hands of the said Clerks of the Cheque, upon the Payment of the Allowances beforementioned; and that they cause to be Transmitted to the Principal Officers and Commissioners of Our Navy, a true and just Account of the Names of the Men they receive, and the Ships or Vessels on which they put them on Board, together with the aforesaid Receipts, that so they, the said Commissioners of Our Navy, may be the better Enabled to Inspect into the Validity of the said Accounts.

Given at Our Court at St. *James*'s the Nineteenth Day of *March*, 1718. In the Fifth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

LONDON, Printed by *John Baskett*, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, And by the Assigns of *Thomas Newcomb*, and *Henry Hills*, deceas'd. 1718.